

December 2003

SOUTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Phil Tilt

## Overview

In December 2003, the Southern Command percentage of staffed traffic sergeant and trooper positions currently assigned to work the road dropped to 67.1% as compared to 68.9% in December 2002. The commercial personnel, currently assigned to work the road is 38.5%, down from 50% in December 2002. The Southern Command continues to operate with a substantial lack of personnel and many vacant positions. There are currently 12 new Troopers continuing in the field training program, and six lateral new hires are currently being trained in Carson City. They will be assigned to Southern Command upon successful completion of the Highway Patrol specific academy. Additionally, the Division expects to hire 14 cadets for the February 2, 2004 basic recruit academy. There are currently 13 applicants in the background process for 18 vacant dispatch positions. One vacant dispatch position was filled in December. Until the majority of the vacancies in both areas are filled with trained personnel, we will continue to struggle with manpower issues.

Southern Command personnel handled 1085 crashes during December 2003 as compared to 949 total crashes in December 2002. This was an increase of 14.3%. The most notable change was in fatal crashes, which went down 40%. Also, total persons killed went down 40%. In raw numbers, there were a total of 6 fatal crashes in December 2003 and 6 people died compared to 10 fatal crashes in December 2002 where 10 people died. The Southern Command documented a 23.5% decrease in the overall number of commercial vehicle involved injury crashes. We investigated 50 total commercial crashes in the month of December 2003 compared to 45 in December 2002. Of the commercial crashes investigated this month, there were no fatalities, 13 resulted in injuries, and the remainder were property damage only. Crashes involving commercial vehicles represented 4.6% of the total crashes handled by Southern Command in December 2003. The Southern Command will continue to focus on hazardous commercial moving, and out of service violations.

Even with the high vacancy rate, the Southern Command continues to see very positive improvements. These improvements are reflected in the overall activity level. Southern Command increased occupant restraint enforcement in December 2003 by 87.3%, hazardous moving by 7.2%, and overall enforcement by 8.5%, as compared to December 2002. Southern Command personnel increased total enforcement in December 2003 by 8.5%, as compared to December 2002, and decreased total enforcement by 6.1% over November 2003. Southern Command Commercial Operations continues to increase their activity in many areas when compared to December 2002. Some notable areas of this trend include increases of 600% in hazardous moving violations, 14.8% increase in total safety inspections, 9.9% increase in total safety violations, and 213.7 % increase in dyed fuel inspections. Southern Command personnel continue to perform their duties under increasing work loads in a professional manner and I commend their hard work and dedication.

### Contents:

Crash Analysis 2

Field Enforcement 3

Staffing Hours 4

Ratios 6

Commercial Enforcement /

Administrative Ops. 8

Personnel 10

Public Information 11

Projects 12

SOUTHERN COMMAND

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	December 2003		December 2002	% Change		November 2003	% Change
Total Crashes	1085		949	14.3%		1008	7.6%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	763		694	9.9%		687	11.1%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	316		245	29.0%		312	1.3%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	6		10	-40.0%		9	-33.3%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	36		45	-20.0%		54	-33.3%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	6		10	-40.0%		11	-45.5%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1		4	-75.0%		4	-75.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		3	-66.7%		4	-75.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		2	-50.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		0	100.0%
Total persons killed -- seatbelts not applicable	2		2	0.0%		1	100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	50		45	11.1%		67	-25.4%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	37		27	37.0%		55	-32.7%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	13		17	-23.5%		12	8.3%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.6%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 3.3%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 50.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 4.6%

## CRASH ANALYSIS

During the month of December, the Southern Command experienced an increase in the normal level of rain and snow fall. This contributed to an increase in the crash rate on those days. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors authority reported that hotel occupancy was at 99% throughout the Holiday Season. In addition, Las Vegas hosted the National Finals Rodeo, and several large scale conventions. With special events contributing to a higher than average number of vehicles on roadways, and the adverse weather conditions, we experienced more property and injury crashes than normal.

With the final 2.5 miles completed, the CR/IR 215 Beltway now connects Interstate 15 North to Gibson Road in Henderson. The total distance of the beltway is now 52 miles, not including the adjacent intersections. With increased responsibilities and roadway miles, an increase in traffic volume and calls for service are expected.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

Traffic Operations	December 2003		December 2002	% Change		November 2003	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes	36		45	-20.0%		54	-33.3%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	133		139	-4.3%		134	-0.7%
Other Arrests	732		816	-10.3%		734	-0.3%
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	340		340	0.0%		357	-4.8%
Speed violations	2868		3093	-7.3%		3200	-10.4%
Hazardous moving violations	1915		1786	7.2%		2068	-7.4%
Occupant restraint violations *	648		346	87.3%		690	-6.1%
Total violations [above violations included]	9504		8763	8.5%		10121	-6.1%
<b>Commercial Operations</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	28		4	600.0%		26	7.7%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	89		105	-15.2%		181	-50.8%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	496		432	14.8%		547	-9.3%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR Only	9		75	-88.0%		15	-40.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	144		131	9.9%		337	-57.3%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1558		1791	-13.0%		2031	-23.3%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	123		152	-19.1%		142	-13.4%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	61		80	-23.8%		77	-20.8%
Total school buses inspected	71		95	-25.3%		139	-48.9%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	12		18	-33.3%		20	-40.0%
Total trucks weighed	75		857	-91.2%		138	-45.7%
Total overweight citations	14		17	-17.6%		26	-46.2%
Total dyed fuel inspections	505		161	213.7%		562	-10.1%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

### TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ANALYSIS

This month, the Southern Command has 12 troopers in the Public Safety Training Officers Program. This training program requires seasoned troopers to pair up with the new troopers and operate as two person units. This reduces the overall activity effort, as the seasoned troopers time is spent training.

With the increase in Public awareness, through a strong media campaign and community support, the Southern Command had a decrease in the number of DUI related crashes. Additionally, saturation patrols were deployed using personnel from outside the Region to aid in this effort.

## STAFFING AND WORK HOURS

	Authorized positions		Current positions staffed		Percentage of authorized	
STAFFING	December 2003	December 2002	December 2003	December 2002	December 2003	December 2002
Traffic [Tpr. & sgt.]	149	161	100	111	67.1%	68.9%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	26	30	10	15	38.5%	50.0%
Commercial CVSI	5	5	4	5	80.0%	100.0%
WORK HOURS LOST	December 2003		December 2002	% Change	November 2003	% Change
Annual leave	2050.5		2112.25	-2.9%	1799.5	13.9%
Compensatory leave	358.25		699.11	-48.8%	752.85	-52.4%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	1264.2		974.75	29.7%	967.5	30.7%
Military leave	248		30	726.7%	336	-26.2%
Holiday off	234		284	-17.6%	908	-74.2%
Training	1150.25		1328.17	-13.4%	1659.83	-30.7%
Administrative leave	38.5		0	3850.0%	50	-23.0%
Leave without pay	0		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	8477		11245	-24.6%	9342	-9.3%
<b>Total work hours lost</b>	13820.7		16673.28	-17.1%	15815.68	-12.6%
OVERTIME	December 2003		December 2002	% Change	November 2003	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	2194.2		2049.9	7.0%	2484	-11.7%
Compensatory overtime claimed	211.63		79.5	166.2%	207.58	2.0%
<b>Total overtime hours</b>	2405.83		2129.4	13.0%	2691.58	-10.6%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	December 2003		December 2002	% Change	November 2003	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	31140		33908	-8.2%	31140	0.0%
Work hours lost	13820.7		16673.28	-17.1%	15815.68	-12.6%
Overtime	2405.83		2129.4	13.0%	2691.58	-10.6%
<b>Total hours worked</b>	19725.13		19364.12	1.9%	18015.9	9.5%

\*173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

Numerical staffing numbers shown above reflect only those sergeants and troopers whose primary responsibilities include enforcement activity, crash investigations, commercial enforcement, or inspection functions. Command staff and sworn personnel assigned to other duties are not included as they have minimal impact on enforcement, accident reduction efforts, or commercial vehicle safety.

## **STAFFING / WORK HOURS**

### **TRAFFIC OPERATIONS**

The Southern Command field staffing has increased compared to last month. This increase includes the new personnel currently in field training. During December 2002 there were two retirements from the sworn ranks, however, this did not change the comparative year numbers because the two positions had been on medical leave for an extended period of time prior to leaving and were not part of the position count. The November 2003 loss of road staffing due to leave and training exceeded the equivalent of 22 traffic trooper positions. This was down from 27 positions lost last month to leave and training.

### **COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS**

Commercial Enforcement consisted of ten commissioned troopers and sergeants, and four CVSI's for the month of December. In addition to those, two Troopers were on extended sick leave, one was temporarily assigned to background investigations, and one Sergeant and one Trooper were assigned to administrative duties.

### **OVERTIME**

Overtime declined this month compared to last month by over 10%. The overtime increased 13% compared to last year at this time. Increases are attributed to Holiday Coverage and a Presidential visit.

## **FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY *Cont'd***

### **CRIMINAL INTERDICTION**

During the month of December the Criminal Interdiction Team conducted 162 traffic stops and 44 motorist assists. During these traffic stops, 38 searches were conducted which resulted in the seizure of the following:

<b>Methamphetamine</b>	15.2 grams street value estimated at \$480.00
<b>Marijuana</b>	200,538 grams street value estimated at \$154,416.00
<b>Cocaine</b>	18,453.80 grams street value estimated at \$1,476,304.00
<b>Vehicles</b>	1 – 2002 Ford Pickup with compartments
<b>Cash</b>	\$23,732.00

## **RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT**

<b>ACCIDENT RATIOS</b>	
Ratio of crashes per staffed Traffic position	
Total	10.9
Property	7.6
Injury	3.2
Fatal	0.1
DUI	0.4
Commercial vehicle	0.5
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash	1.0
without seatbelts	0.3
with seatbelts	0.3

### **FIELD ENFORCEMENT**

Ratio of enforcement per staffed Traffic position	
DUI arrests from crashes	0.4
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes	1.3
Other Arrests	7.3
Total persons arrested (DUI included)	3.4
Speed violations	28.7
Hazardous moving violations	19.2
Occupant restraint violations	6.5
Total violations	95.0

### **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT RATIOS**

Troopers responded to over 17,000 incidents. In addition to field enforcement and response to traffic accidents, these incidents included: motorist assists, debris removal, medical assists, allied agency assistance, and traffic hazard mitigation.

The Traffic Enforcement Ratios have been broken down further, to give a more accurate picture of the distribution of workload in the Southern Command between Urban and Rural Operations:

Traffic troopers assigned to the rural areas of the Southern Command had a crash ratio of 3.5 crashes per staffed field operations position. One-Hundred and six citations were issued per staffed position and 0.6 DUI arrest was made per position.

In the Urban areas, the crash ratio was 14 crashes per staffed traffic position. One hundred and twelve citations were issued per staffed field position and 2 DUI arrests were made per position.

## ***RATIOS – ACCIDENT AND ENFORCEMENT Cont'd***

### **INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS**

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	2.8
Other traffic violations - citations	*	8.9
Total safety inspections [all levels]		35.4
Terminal inspections TIP		0.6
Total safety violations -- citation	*	14.4
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.3
Total safety violations -- repair order		111.3
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		3.1
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		8.8
Average vehicles placed "Out of Service" per inspection		0.2
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		4.4
Average drivers placed "Out of Service" per inspection		0.1
Total school buses inspected		5.1
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		0.9
Total trucks weighed	*	7.5
Total overweight citations	*	1.4
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	50.5
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.0

\* Commercial sworn only

The number of commercial crashes occurring as a result of mechanical violations has decreased steadily over the past two decades. The decrease is directly attributable to the attention given to commercial vehicle safety inspections during that time. We have now identified that commercial crashes are primarily caused by driver error. Therefore, we must now focus on hazardous moving violations with regard to commercial vehicles.

The results of this focus are increases in hazardous moving citations / arrests of 600% from December 2002, and 7.7% from last month.

## **COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS**

Commercial Enforcement activity showed a slight decrease from the same period last year, and a nominal change from last month. A large amount of leave and training contributed to low staffing levels. Attention will be given to enforcing hazardous moving and seatbelt violations.

Commercial vehicle crashes for the Southern Command continued to decrease, from 67 in November to 50 in December. The region investigated 1085 accidents in December, with commercial accidents comprising 4.6% of them. Thirty seven of the commercial crashes were property damage, 13 were injury and none were fatal. Commercial vehicles were at fault in 27 of the 50 crashes; 21 of those were the result of commercial driver error, 2 spilled loads, and 4 mechanical defects. The remaining 23 were the fault of non commercial drivers. Thirty six crashes involved combination vehicles, with the remainder being single unit vehicles.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

### **EVIDENCE VAULT**

When December 2003 numbers were compared with November 2003, the evidence vault had an 11% increase in the number of cases and a 43.48% increase in the number of items received. However, there was a 20% decrease in the number of items disposed. A break down of the number of items submitted in December 2003 found that 88.4% were submitted by NHP, 10.6% by Parole and Probation, and 1% by Compliance Enforcement Division (DMV).

When December 2003 numbers were compared with December 2002, the evidence vault showed a 5.66% decrease in the number of cases and a 7.25% increase in the number of items received. The number of items disposed went up by 48.53%.

### **CONTRACT SERVICES**

When compared to December 2002 Contract Services had fewer hours of contract time, recording 252 hours from 6 contracts. These contracts reimbursed the Nevada Highway Patrol \$2,841.00, with \$52,194.00 still pending in overtime costs.

### **COMMUNICATION CENTER**

During December CAD incidents initiated for the Southern Command, including allied agencies, totaled 18,416. This is the highest number of incidents for any month in 2003.

December telephone call volume totaled 36,922 calls. There were 154,870 radio transmissions in December. In comparison to the previous month, phone calls increased by 17% and transmissions increased by 13%. On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 the Southern Command Communications Center re-assumed dispatch responsibilities for the Department of Public Safety allied agencies. The increase in responsibilities is reflected in the increased radio and phone traffic.



## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS *Cont'd***

### **RECORDS SECTION**

The Records Section had 1,063 visitors requesting services in December. That is a 40% increase from November. The section processed 1,115 crash reports during December. There were 38 office reports taken and 5,575 reports mailed. In addition to those transactions 156 vehicles were released, compared to 125 last month.

### **OFFICE HIT AND RUN REPORTS**

Of the 38 crash reports taken at the office, 8 were "hit and runs". We cleared a total of 7 hit and run reports in December

### **COURT SERVICES SECTION**

The Court Services section received 249 bench warrants from area courts during December. One hundred eighty-five warrants were cleared from the Criminal Justice Information System. This section also validated over 3,751 active warrants, checking for accuracy and completeness.

This section arranged 7 in-state transports this month.

### **AVERAGE BAC**

The average blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of drivers arrested during December was 0.162%. Drivers arrested prior to crash had an average BAC of 0.165% and drivers arrested from a crash had an average BAC of 0.153%. Of all drivers arrested, 5% tested positive for controlled substance. In addition, 7% of drivers arrested had a prior conviction for DUI.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **NEW HIRES**

Mary Schadel

Deseret Cook

## **COMMENDATIONS**

- A Metro Police Officer wrote to complement Trooper George on his professional appearance and polite attitude during a traffic stop.
- A citizen wrote to thank Sergeant Mack for his assistance with changing a flat tire.
- Lt. Cabrales received a commendation from Major Tilt for his planning and execution of President Bush's visit to Las Vegas.
- The Command Staff issued a total of 87 commendations to both sworn and civilian personnel. These included letters for involvement in the Air Show at Nellis Air Force Base and the Presidential visit.
- NHP personnel received 32 commendations from allied agencies.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### **Red Ribbon Campaign Kick Off**

Held at Kyle Canyon by Stop DUI; this presentation was attended by Lt Cabrales on behalf of the Highway Patrol Division. The event was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

### **University Medical Center's "U Drink U Drive U Lose" Campaign**

An annual event, held by the county hospital and trauma center, in an effort to reduce the amount of DUI related accidents by use of designated drivers during the holiday period. This event was held December 3, 2003.

### **US Army's 6<sup>th</sup> AMEDD Recruiting Battalion**

A traffic safety presentation for the recruiting battalion of the US Army's 6<sup>th</sup> AMEDD was made on December 5, 2003. Over 90 Army personnel attended this presentation which included Nevada traffic laws with special emphasis on seat belt safety and the dangers of driving while intoxicated. December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003

### **Sandy Valley Fire Dept. Safe Fair**

NHP provided a rollover simulator for use by attendees to illustrate what can happen during a traffic accident. Also used were the fatal vision goggles that demonstrate how intoxication effects vision. District Troopers assisted in this presentation. Approximately 120 men, women, and children attended. December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003

### **Shop with a Cop**

With the assistance of front office personnel and in conjunction with the Clark Co. School Police, NHP Troopers participated in Shop with a Cop at the K-Mart located at Buffalo and Washington. 100 Children were each assigned a police officer or Trooper who took them shopping for holiday items. Donations by community businesses provided funding for this worthwhile cause. December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003

### **United States Geological Surveyors Safe Day**

Training was held for 55 employees of the US Geological Surveyors office. The training included education on the "No Zone", traffic laws, and AAA's winter defensive driving course. December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003

### **Nellis Air Force Base Incoming Airman's Briefing**

Personnel reporting to Nellis Air Force Base were presented a class on Nevada traffic laws with special emphasis on seat belt safety and the dangers of driving while intoxicated. December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003

### **Wet Weather Driving**

The WB television station, Channel 12, ran several stories on Wet Weather Driving as the Southern Command has seen an increase in snow and rain. These spots were aimed at educating the public in how to drive in inclement weather. December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003

### **Taser Training**

All media outlets were present for a demonstration of the M-26 Taser. A trooper was "Tased" during filming, then was interviewed by the media. December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003

### **Laughlin TV2 Morning Show**

Sgt. Mack and Lt. Cabrales participated in a 20 minute taped interview for the TV2 Laughlin morning show. They discussed seatbelt usage, safe holiday travel, and NHP recruitment.

Nevada Highway  
Patrol

## ***PROJECTS***

Las Vegas Marathon

January 25, 2004

Southern Command

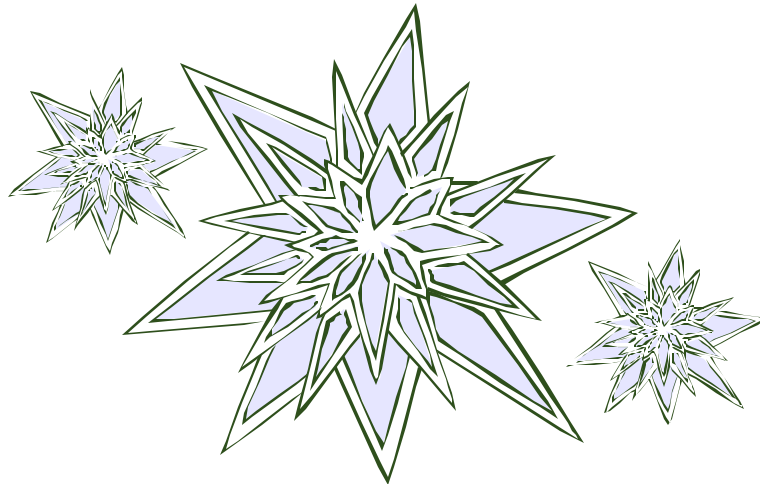
2601 E. Sahara Ave.  
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(702) 486-4100

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(702) 486-4038

### **WIPP**

WIPP transuranic waste shipments are scheduled to begin January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The Commercial Enforcement section is prepared to inspect and escort those shipments. We have participated in “dry-runs” with CHP at the Nevada Test Site to ensure our readiness. We are confident in our level of preparedness.



*No single drop of rain believes it is responsible for the flood..*

***Unknown***